

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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June 18, 2004

Mr. Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall
Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Ms. Sue Kiser

Attention: Mr. Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

We reviewed the financial information submitted by the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) and find it sufficient to demonstrate financial constraint of their 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). MCAG plans to use \$2.447 million of prior Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) apportionments in FY 2003/04. This amount was included as part of MCAG's obligation plan that was submitted to the Department. Currently, there is sufficient Obligation Authority (OA) available that will enable MCAG to program over their annual apportionment level for the 2003/04 year. MCAG amended their 2002/03-2004/05 FTIP to reflect the changes necessary to financially constrain their FTIP. Therefore, with this letter and pursuant to the authority delegated to me, I approve the updated financial constraint and the following Amendment of the MCAG's 2002/03-2004/05 FTIP:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
17	State, Local and Transit Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adds or modifies various projects in Merced County. The amendment includes projects with funding from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 program.

I am also recommending that the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration approve this updated financial constraint and the FTIP Amendment for inclusion into California's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Projects included in this FTIP in fiscal years not within the three-year cycle of the current FSTIP are not approved as part of this FTIP Amendment and are shown for information only.

The updated programming is for project types that have been found by the MCAG to conform to applicable air quality regulations. This FTIP Amendment is consistent with the State Implementation Plan. The financial impacts of this amendment are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis.

Fund types on projects, listed in the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS), as "Future RTIP, ITIP Funds" are considered to be for information only and are not included with the financial analysis. These projects are included and submitted by MCAG through the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS). Caltrans concerns, if any, are reflected in the "Caltrans comment" section of the FTIP Project Data Entry screen in CTIPS project by project.

In accordance with existing law, public involvement procedures are a part of the project selection process. The MCAG prepared the updated financial constraint and this FTIP Amendment under that process permitting citizens, affected local agencies, other public agencies, and other interested parties reasonable opportunity for comment.

Please address any questions on this FSTIP approval request to Muhaned Aljabiry of my staff, at (916) 654-3521.

Sincerely,



ROSS A. CHITTENDEN
Chief
Transportation Programming

Enclosures

- c: Steven Barhite - EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)
Jesse B. Brown - Merced County Association of Governments
Terri Lewis - Merced County Association of Governments
Muhaned Aljabiry - Caltrans